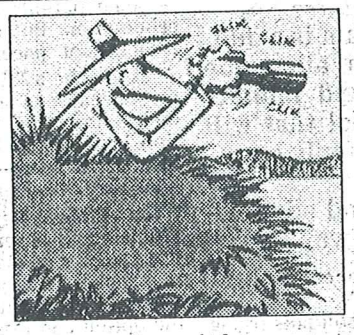
SPYING IN THE '90s

ESPIONAGE

ITEM: Two top executives of an American aerospace company, on a sales mission to France, return to their suite at a swank Paris hotel where they have left highly sensitive product documents. Inside they find three men who claim they are there to fix the broken air conditioning, but the air conditioning is not broken. The hotel confirms it has sent no repairmen.



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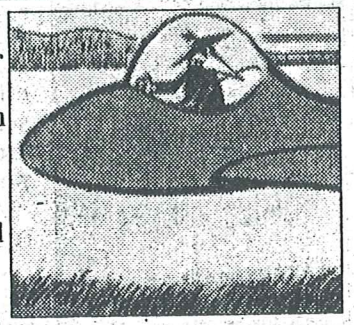
ITEM: A major American company dispatches an air cargo shipment to Russia. The items are "of very high value," the company manifest says. A fax is sent to the firm's Moscow office, describing when and where the cargo will arrive. When opened, the container is empty. Private investigators learn the fax has been intercepted by the Russian Mafia. They have stolen the cargo, then carefully resealed the container.



By TOM ROBBINS